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Letter dated 12 March 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following declaration (copies attached in French and English) published on 9 March 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on the security situation at the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Per **Norström**
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 March 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the security situation on the border of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued on 9 March 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union considers the stability of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia of fundamental importance for the future development of the whole region, and reiterates its strong condemnation of the recent episodes of ethnic Albanian extremist attacks in the area, which endanger the stability and security of the country and the region.

The European Union's Political and Security Committee discussed on 9 March with the Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Srgjan Kerim, his Government's action plan for measures aimed at the cessation of violence and at ensuring lasting stability on its border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which was presented to the Security Council on 7 March. It supports the Government's policy of maintaining the appropriate level of restraint, while preserving the political stability of the country and fostering harmony and cooperation among all ethnic groups of the population. In this context, the European Union welcomes the increased contacts between KFOR, UNMIK and the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to address the volatile situation in the border area. It welcomes the actions already taken, especially by KFOR. It calls upon all neighbouring countries and international organizations active in the area to examine what support they could provide. It underlines the importance of the role played by KFOR, the European Union and its Monitoring Mission, as well as the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, especially in monitoring along the borders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Recalling the importance of integrated border management, the European Union stands ready to support efforts by the countries in the region. In the context of improving inter-ethnic relations, the European Union is contributing substantially to the University of South-Eastern Europe at Tetovo.

The European Union reiterates its call on all political forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well as in Kosovo to distance themselves from and isolate the forces behind the recent attacks and to shoulder their responsibility for peace and stability in the region. It confirms its strong attachment to the principle of inviolability of internationally recognized borders in the region, and to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.